COMMANDERS DIGEST

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More Air Assault Divisions Needed, Say U.S. Officials

Performance demonstrated by the Army's air assault division in Vietnam indicates a need for more such units, according to U.S. officials.

At present, the 1st Cavalry Div. (Airmobile) is in South Vietnam, and according to officials at least one more air assault division would be advantageous.

Any decision for additional airmobile divisions would be up to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Army, the officials said.

The Army is studying how many air assault units are needed in the military structure.

At present there are 48 light and medium helicopter companies.

The rate of production of UH-1 "choppers," used by the airmobile unit, is 150 a month, and increasing because of additional requirements in RVN.

U.S. Determined to Work For Stronger NATO Alliance

The United States is determined to work with 13 other nations to preserve and strengthen NATO, while leaving the door open for any nation which might withdraw to reconsider its intentions.

President Johnson affirmed this stand for the U.S. March 23, expressing hope that no treaty member will long remain withdrawn from the alliance.

He said a place of respect and responsibility will await any ally who decides to return to the common task.

Deputy Sec. Vance to Study RVN Reconstruction Program

President Johnson is sending Deputy Secretary of Defense Cyrus R. Vance and two White House staff members to the Republic of Vietnam next week to study the country's reconstruction program.

On the same plane with Secretary Vance will be Bill D. Moyers, White House press secretary, and Robert W. Komer, special assistant, who has been acting head of the National Security Council staff.

Secretary Vance and other DOD officials earlier had been scheduled to depart the United States March 24.

HONORED VISITOR—Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, President of the Republic of China (left), accepts a plaque commemorating his visit to the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Enterprise off the coast of Taiwan. Capt. James L. Holloway III, USN, CO of the carrier, makes the presentation.

155 Enemy Battalions Could Be in RVN at Year's End

By the end of this year it is believed some 155 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese battalions could be operating in South Vietnam.

This estimate was disclosed by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The Secretary noted that North Vietnam has the capability to generate and infiltrate up to 4,500 combat troops monthly, and the VC could press into service some 3,500 South Vietnamese on the same scale.

With these capabilities, coupled with mounting enemy losses, Secretary McNamara said by the end of 1966 the enemy forces could be approximately 50 percent above the Dec. 31, 1965, level.

If this should occur and at the level of combat anticipated for the end of this year, the Secretary explained, the enemy forces would require about 150 tons of supplies per day.

"We believe our improved air interdiction efforts would prevent them from receiving much more than that amount," he said.

Washington Memos

ONE-BILLIONTH GALLON of fresh water was produced in February to establish milestone at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba, conversion plant. Since the Salt Water Conversion Unit arrived via SS President Grant in April 1964, $10 million project plant has operated constantly without any breakdowns, malfunctions or accidents.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE has asked the Selective Service System to provide 100 optometrists for active duty with the Army in July. It is first call for optometrists under Executive Order 11266, signed by President Johnson Jan. 18, 1966.

AMONG NEW WEAPONS introduced into RVN is M-5 40mm grenade launcher. The air assault weapon is electrically operated and has rate of fire of 220-240 rpm with 1200 meter maximum effective range. One UH-1B armed with the M-5 is credited with sinking 15 sampans on one occasion.

ARMY'S PORTION OF DOD'S Project Provost includes development of a personnel detector. It is normally carried by patrol's lead man and has repeatedly detected concealed troops. Other projects include a hand-held, one shot, expendable flame projector and a steel net jungle canopy supporting tree-top helicopter landings.

SAM-D MISSILE AS currently conceived will be fielded as replacement for Hercules and Hawk. Air defense system is expected to increase effectiveness while providing more flexibility and less operational cost.

ARMY LEADS ALL branches of the armed forces in the number of personnel—military and civilian—buying U.S. Savings Bonds on a regular purchase plan. The number of military personnel signed up exceeds 70 percent.

ARMY WILL EXPAND Junior ROTC military training program at secondary schools from 287 to 434 schools this summer. Expansion is authorized by ROTC Vitalization Act of 1964. Schools submitting applications for Junior ROTC units before April 1, will be considered for this year's expansion program.

THREE NAVY TECHNOLOGICAL groups have been brought together at Naval Research Laboratory to coordinate oceanography programs. Groups are Ocean Science and Technology Group, Office of Naval Research; NRL's Ocean Science and Engineering Div.; and Research and Development Department, Naval Oceanographic Office. Groups will work together, under technical supervision of own research directors.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL TO liberalize certain provisions of the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan is being prepared by DOD. This concerns revisions that can be accomplished without disturbing the soundness of the plan as prescribed by law.

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION WILL be given to ANC officer selected for giving outstanding service or making an extraordinary contribution as a professional Army nurse. The Army Nurse of the Year Award will be made during week of May 8. Nominations may be made by all commands. Final selectee will be designated by the Surgeon General.

SIGNIFICANT BREAKTHROUGH IN rapid cargo delivery to forward RVN areas has been made by Air Force. A C-130 airlifted 574,000 pounds of supplies and 68 passengers, 35 miles to a bare dirt field in less than nine hours. On-loading for each flight from Tan Son Nhut averaged five minutes. Off-loading at Phuoc Vinh took three minutes. Altogether, 14 round trips were made with engines shut down only for refueling.

THIS MARKS THE first time the new Material Handling Support System (MHSS 463L) was used in a combat area. The 463L components consisted of pallets to carry cargo, a 10,000 pound forklift, a 25,000 pound loader, and the new C-130 Ramp Bridge for unloading while taxiing.

USAF'S AIR DEFENSE Command (ADC) celebrated 20 years service March 21. During this period it has been responsible for protecting this nation against enemy aircraft. Today, while maintaining defense against hostile bombers, it is striving to meet the threat of missiles and satellites as well.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS of Air Force have been credited with saving 139 aircraft and 473 persons during CY65. These figures reflect only reported incidents where Aircraft Save Review Board deemed controllers actions extraordinary and paramount to successful recovery. Estimated value of the "saves" is $153 million.

AIRCRAFT AND PERSONNEL of 403rd Troop Carrier Wing units, Selfridge AFB, Mich., are participating in Clove Hitch I, a joint field training exercise in Onslow Beach—Camp Lejeune area of North Carolina. Aircraft will lift members of Army's 101st Airborne Brigade into area.

HOLDERS OF THE new low-cost Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) are reminded that before discharge, VA Form 29-8284, "Certification of SGLI," should be completed in order to facilitate conversion when in civilian status. Forms can be obtained at personnel offices.

CARE REPORTS IT has received $182,506.92 from the Marine Corps Reserve Civic Action Fund as of March 9. The fund operates at grass roots level, helping to better acquaint the public with the war in Vietnam. More than one-third of the state governors have lent support to the program along with nearly 100 mayors and members of various civic, labor, fraternal, veterans and religious groups and organizations.

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Background For Commanders

President Seeks Plans for War of Independence Celebration

On March 10 President Johnson sent to Congress, for its consideration, a joint resolution establishing an American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. In so doing, he pointed out that "From 1776, wherever human beings have dreamed of a better society . . . they have been moved by the eloquence of the Declaration of Independence." His message, accompanying the resolution, follows:

Nothing in our proud heritage surpasses the significance of that great struggle for freedom nearly 200 years ago. The Colonies at that time contained hardly more than three million people. Yet they also contained the greatest group of leaders ever assembled on the stage of history: men like Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Paine, Franklin and Mason. These were men of vision. They were men of courage. They were men of ideas.

These great leaders, warmed by the love of liberty, gave to their fellow Americans a driving force which inspired them to move from a colony of limited horizons to a powerful and mighty nation of free men and abundant opportunity.

The blood of men of many colors, many faiths, and many origins was spilled on the battlefield of this cause. Their names were American names: Attucks, Salvadore, L'Enfant, De Kalb, de Medici, Salomon.

But the American Revolution was more than a war. It was a political event. It was a social upheaval.

Above all, the American Revolution was a belief in the supreme worth and dignity of the individual—the idea that all men were created equal and entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That idea was developing in the Thirteen Colonies long before the first guns sounded at Lexington and Concord. From 1766—and even before—a series of events showed, as John Adams declared, that "the Revolution was effected before the war commenced. The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people."

It is fitting to plan now for the 200th anniversary of these events. In the rich diversity that is America, each community will celebrate in its own way and will draw its own inspiration from the Revolution. But the Federal Government must be prepared to share its knowledge and resources with states, local communities, historical societies, and others across the Nation. The Bicentennial Celebration should be a truly national effort.

I propose that we establish an American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, composed of members of Congress and the Executive Branch and distinguished and outstanding Americans appointed by the President.

This Commission will:

- Provide a creative and helping hand to State, local, and private groups in their commemorations;
- Increase our knowledge and appreciation of the American Revolution through our schools and universities and our historians and scholars;
- Plan for celebrations at the national level; and
- Recall to America and to the world the majestic significance of the Revolution.

In planning this Bicentennial Celebration, we must remember that we are celebrating not only the birth of American ideals, but the birth of ideals that today encircle the globe.

Ours was a true revolution of liberty. It was not a revolution of tyranny. It was not a revolution of aggression. It was a revolution for the greatest cause in the affairs of men—freedom and human dignity.

The impact of the American Revolution on the rest of the world was electric. This small, struggling nation became the rallying point for friends of freedom throughout Western civilization.

To these shores came great men like Lafayette, Von Steuben, Kosciuszko and Pulaski. It was Pulaski himself who said, "Wherever on the globe men are fighting for liberty, it is as if it were our own affair."

These words have special significance for our own generation. Today, the Vietnamese people are fighting for their freedom in South Vietnam. We are carrying forward our great heritage by helping to sustain their efforts.

From 1776, wherever human beings have dreamed of a better society, wherever they have determined to bring reality to their dreams, they have been moved by the eloquence of the Declaration of Independence. They have found guidance and sustenance in the actions of the men who saw our nation through the crisis of its birth.

I send this recommendation to the Congress with special pleasure. The Bicentennial Commission will help us commemorate the American Revolution with all the dignity and spirit it deserves.

For we must never forget Thomas Jefferson's proud and confident declaration of the meaning of the American Revolution in the whole long sweep of human history:

"I shall not die without hope that light and liberty are in steady advance. . . . The flames kindled on July 4, 1776, have spread over too much of the globe to be extinguished by the feeble engines of despotism. On the contrary, they will consume these engines and all who work them."

Army Seeking Qualified Individuals for WO Slots

Army is seeking qualified individuals for warrant officer appointment in certain career fields.

Appointments are open for qualified nurses under the Warrant Officer Nurse Procurement Program. Application forms and documents are outlined in AR 601-139 as amended by DA Message 747989 of Jan. 21, 1966.

Fully qualified individuals are also sought to operate and maintain water craft including floating cranes and tug boats. Application guidance is contained in AR 135-100 and DA Circular 601-13 of Dec. 15, 1965.

Post Office Increases MO, Ins., C.O.D. Rates

Increased rates for money orders, insurance, registry, certified mail and C.O.D. charges are now in effect, the Post Office Department has announced.

Increases include a five cent raise for domestic and international money order fees. The minimum fee bracket for insurance is increased from $10 to $15 and fees go to a 20 cent minimum.

Fees for money orders, registry and C.O.D. were last changed in 1961; insurance and certified mail in 1957.

MEMORIES — Lt. Gen. Charles G. Dodge, CG, Fifth U.S. Army, holds a campaign hat similar to one he wore when he entered the Army as a second lieutenant in the Cavalry in 1930. General Dodge is due to retire from active service March 31.

Army Goes 'Piggy-Back'

The Army is employing a trans-Pacific "piggy-back" delivery system to rush cargo from the U.S. to Vietnam.

Special 12-ton trailers, loaded at depot points in America, are expressed by rail, then shipped to the 1st Logistical Command ports at Cam Ranh and Saigon for direct movement to depots or units, according to their cargoes.

Upward Bomb Ejection System Being Tested

The Air Force is studying ways to eject bombs from the top of aircraft instead of dropping them in the conventional way.

This novel concept is part of a study by the Air Force Systems Command to determine new suspension and release ejection methods that would permit high-speed aircraft to attack at extremely low altitude.

Engineering studies indicate the new method would increase accuracy and provide more time for aircraft to escape the blast. Either conventional or nuclear weapons could be used.

Nuclear Dust Catcher Tested in California

A missile system designed to collect and bring back samples of debris from nuclear clouds is being tested at Point Mugu, Calif., Pacific Missile Range.

The system, called Cleansweep IIIB, was introduced to the range in 1963 and is being developed by the University of California's Lawrence Radiation Laboratory.

It will be part of the national readiness program to resume nuclear testing in the atmosphere if the present test ban treaty is broken by Russia.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Brig. Gen. Charles R. Meyer, USA, former CofS, Sixth U.S. Army, to command U.S. Army Support Command, Qui Nhon, RVN. **Maj. Gen. Robert H. Schellman, USA,** G-3, USARPAC, to assume command of 3rd Infantry Division, Wurzburg, Germany, in April. **Brig. Gen. Burnside E. Huffman Jr., USA,** departed Ft. Sill, Okla., for duty as G-3, 8th U.S. Army, Korea. Three USAFE officers promoted to present ranks are **Maj. Gen. Luther H. Richmond,** Deputy Commander, Seventeenth Air Force, Ramstein AB, Germany; **Brig. Gens. DeWitt S. Spain,** 10th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, RAF Alconbury, England and **James F. Hackler Jr.,** 36th Tactical Fighter Wing, Bitburg AB, Germany. **RAdm. Robert E. Riera, USN,** transferred from Commander, Alaskan Sea Frontier, COM17ND, and Fleet Air Alaska, to Commander, Fleet Air Mediterranean, Naples, Italy.

CONTRACT AWARDS

Rubber Fabricators, Inc., Grantsville, W. Va.: $1,897,500 firm, fixed-price contract for 250,000 pneumatic mattresses. **(DSA)**

Chaney & James & Gibralter Construction Co., Richardson, Tex.: $2,073,161 fixed-price contract for construction of a vacuum telescope laboratory at Sacramento Peak, N. Mex. **(Army)**

Royal Industries Inc., Engineered Products Div., Alhambra, Calif.: $1,925,979 fixed-price contract for aircraft fuel tanks for use on A-4A and TA-4E aircraft. **(Navy)**

Kollsman Instrument Corp., Elmhurst, N.Y.: $2,331,-218 fixed-price order for production of aerospace ground equipment for mapping and survey systems. **(Air Force)**